What is claimed is:

1. A method of transmitting to a remote node in a data communications network, digital images from an image data source, comprising the steps of:

providing the customer a specific apparatus, said apparatus having identifying information stored in a memory thereof; and

accessing and transferring one image or a plurality of images from the image data source;

automatically determining a closest entry point into the data communications network;

transmitting said image or plurality of images and said identifying information, through the closest entry point, to a remote node of the data communications network;

receiving, at the remote node of the data communications network, said image or plurality of images and said identifying information.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying information is preset in the memory in the apparatus.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein in automatically determining said entry point GPS information is used.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein in automatically determining said entry point caller ID information is used.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet, the closest entry point is an Internet Service Provider (ISP) and the remote node is a server.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmission of the image or plurality of images from the apparatus to the remote node of the communication network comprises the steps of:

(A) constructing from each image at least one of a plurality of packets of information wherein the image is comprised of the totality of packets;

(B) transmitting a packet at a given data rate;

(C) determining whether the transmission was successful; and

(D) performing the following steps, if the transmission is successful:

increasing the data rate,

determining if the data rate exceeds a select maximum data rate;

setting the data rate to the maximum data rate, if the data rate exceeds the select maximum data rate;

(E) decreasing the data rate, if the transmission was not successful, until successful transmission is achieved;

(F) transmitting a next packet; and

(G) repeating steps (B) through (F) until the totality of packets is transmitted.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmission of the image or plurality of images from the apparatus to the remote node of the communication network further comprises the steps of:

detecting an interrupting signal; and

interrupting the transmission upon positive detection of the interrupting signal; and

re-attempting transmission after a waiting period following an interruption.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the transmission of the image or plurality of images from the apparatus to the remote node of the communication network further comprises the steps of:

receiving synchronizing information from the remote node, at the initiation of a transmission event;

synchronizing the transmission event with the information received at the remote node.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

rendering the least one of said images in hardcopy form at a remote node of the data communications network.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

rendering the least one of said images in digital form at the remote node of the data communications network.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

storing said image or plurality of images at a remote node of the data communications network.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

sharing said image or plurality of images, in at least one of a plurality of image product forms, with at least one of a plurality of recipients.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying information is received at the apparatus and stored in the memory in the apparatus.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

entering items into a data structure in a memory at a remote node of the data communications network.

15. An apparatus enabling the transmission to a remote node in a data communications network, of digital images from an image data source and of identifying information, said apparatus comprising:

means for accessing one image or a plurality of images from the image data source;

means for storing identifying information in a storage component of said apparatus; and

means for automatically determining a closest entry point into the data communications network; and

means for transmitting the image or plurality of images and the identifying information, through the entry point, to a remote node of the network.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the identifying information relating to the customer is preset.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

means for receiving the identifying information.

18. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:

means for installing operating files in said apparatus.

19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said means for automatically determining the closest entry point into the data communications network comprise a GPS receiver.

20. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said means for automatically determining the closest entry point into the data communications network utilize caller ID information.

21. A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for enabling transmission to a remote node in a data communications network, of digital images from an image data source and of identifying information, said code causing a computer system to:

acquire image data for at least one of a plurality of images;

obtain data comprising the contact information for a closest entry point into the data communications network;

access data comprising said identifying information;

construct at least one of a plurality of packets of data wherein the data in said at least one of a plurality of packets comprises the image data for at least one image and the identifying information;

establish communication with the closest entry point into the data communications network;

transfer the data in said at least one of a plurality of packets through the entry point, to a remote node of the network at which images are stored or printed.

22. The computer program product of Claim 21 where, the computer readable code that causes the computer system to transfer the data further causes the computer system to:

determine whether the transfer of a packet was successful; and

if the transfer is successful, then:

increase the data rate for the transfer of a next packet,

if the data rate for the transfer of a next packet for the transfer of the next packet exceeds a select maximum data rate,

set the data rate to the maximum data rate;

if the transmission was not successful,

decrease the data rate for the transfer of the next packet until successful transmission is achieved.

23. The computer program product of Claim 21 wherein in the computer readable code that causes the computer system to transfer the data further causes the computer system to:

identify a presence of an interrupting signal during transfer of a packets of data; and

if the presence of the interrupting signal is identified, then:

interrupt the transfer, and

re-attempt the transfer after a waiting period following the interruption of the transfer.

24. The computer program product of Claim 23 wherein in the computer readable code that causes the computer system to transfer the data further causes the computer system to:

at the initiation of a transmission event, receive synchronizing information from the remote node; and

synchronize the transmission event with the information received at the remote node.

25. The computer program product of Claim 21 wherein the computer readable code further causes the computer system to:

install operating files in an apparatus, said apparatus including a computer readable medium.

26. A memory for storing data for access by a process executed by a processor, said memory comprising:

a structure for maintaining, at a remote location, image data provided by a customer and other data relating to said customer, said data provided by means of a specific apparatus enabling transmission said image data to said remote location, and said data being available to be shared with at least one of a plurality of recipients in at least one of a plurality of image product forms, said structure including:

an identifier for the specific apparatus;

an identifier for each image datum;

the image datum as provided by the customer;

an image acquisition device descriptor;

at least one of a plurality of image processing preference descriptors;

a list, for said identified image datum provided by means of said identified apparatus, of the recipients of said image datum and of the image product forms that has been shared with said recipient.

27. A memory for storing data for access by a process executed by a processor, said memory comprising:

a structure for maintaining, at a remote location, customer specific data provided by a customer and other data relating to a specific apparatus enabling transmission said image data to said remote location, said structure enabling the sharing of image products, said structure including:

an identifier for the specific apparatus;

at least one of a plurality of image product form preferences;

customer specific billing data;

a list of candidate recipients of image products and addresses for said recipients;

a customer specific identifier.

28. The memory of Claim 27 wherein said structure further comprises:

a list of digital image acquisition device identifiers.

29. A method for transmitting an data item or plurality of data items from an apparatus to a remote node of a data communications network comprising the steps of:

(A) constructing from each image at least one of a plurality of packets of information wherein the image is comprised of the totality of packets;

(B) transmitting a packet at a given data rate;

(C) determining whether the transmission was successful; and

(D) performing the following steps, if the transmission is successful:

increasing the data rate,

determining if the data rate exceeds a select maximum data rate;

setting the data rate to the maximum data rate, if the data rate exceeds the select maximum data rate;

(E) decreasing the data rate, if the transmission was not successful, until successful transmission is achieved;

transmitting a next packet; and

(F) repeating steps (B) through (F) until the totality of packets is transmitted.

30. A method for transmitting data from an apparatus to a remote node of a data communications network comprising the steps of:

detecting an interrupting signal; and

interrupting the transmission upon positive detection of the interrupting signal; and

re-attempting transmission after a waiting period following an interruption.

31. The method of claim 30 further comprising the steps of:

receiving synchronizing information from the remote node, at the initiation of

a transmission event;

synchronizing the transmission event with the information received at the remote node.

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